

REMARKS

Claims 28-33 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 34-37 have been added. Claims 20-27 and 34-37 are thus currently pending in this application. Claim 20 has been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments or additions. Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20-22 and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,540,681 to *Strul et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,165 to *Gentelia et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,961,422 to *Marchosky et al.*

Applicant has amended independent claim 20 to include limitations previously present in canceled claim 33. New independent claims 34 and 35 include subject matter previously present in canceled claims 28 and 30, respectively. Though each of dependent claims 28, 30 and 33 were addressed in the Office Action, Applicant submits that *Strul et al.* (the reference upon which the rejection of each of these claims is based) and the other art of record in the case does not teach or suggest the features of these claims.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 20, *Strul et al.* does not disclose the initiation of processor verification through the insertion of a catheter in a catheter receptacle. (1) The inclusion of such a feature ensures that the system set-up verification process is run each time a new catheter is connected to the system. Neither *Strul et al.*, *Gentelia et al.* nor *Marchosky et al.* disclose this feature.

New independent claim 34 includes the feature of verifying the presence of the (2) appropriate software in the computer as a prerequisite to the output of ablation power. New (3) independent claim 35 includes detailed features related to the verification of the connection between the EP monitoring system and the power control system, including the output and display of signals in pin sequence. Again, neither *Strul et al.*, *Gentelia et al.* nor *Marchosky et al.* disclose these features.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that neither *Strul et al.*, *Gentelia et al.* nor *Marchosky et al.*, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention claimed in independent claims 20, 34 and 35. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration of the §103 rejections of these claims and their respective dependent claims.

New Claims 36 and 37

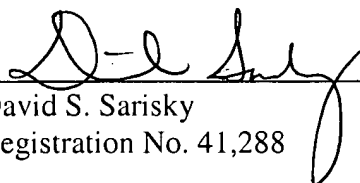
New independent claim 36 recites a system that, in the absence of the verification of any one of several system connections or contacts, invokes a troubleshooting routine that displays corrective action instructions on a display. Dependent claim 37 further recites the display of a graphical representation of the ablation system that provides an indication of the system component associated with the absence of the verification. Applicant submits that the subject matter of these claims is neither taught nor suggested by the art of record. 9

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of Applicant's claims 20-27 and 34-37 are believed to be in order and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
David S. Sarisky
Registration No. 41,288

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
31749.1